

St Thomas à Becket Church of England Federation

14 August 2021

Governor Biographies



Amanda Hawkins
Foundation Governor

Chair of Finance Committee
HR Lead
Premises Lead
Sports Premium Lead
Governing Body Treasurer



I have two children, Trinity who has had a very happy and enjoyable time at Framfield School and is starting her Key Stage 2 journey and Ethan who has just embarked on his school life in Reception.

My professional background before becoming a full time mum was as a Group Human Resources Manager in the retail motor industry. Within this role I dealt with all aspects of Human Resources including: recruitment, writing and reviewing policies, managing performance and sitting on the company board. I undertook my professional qualifications and have retained my chartered membership of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

Since Trinity started school I have been an active and supportive parent within the School. For the past two years I have been the Chair of the Friends of Framfield Pre-School which has been a very successful fund raising group.

I feel that in bringing together my professional HR experience, my approachability, with the experience of being a Framfield parent I can contribute to supporting our Schools in delivering the best educational opportunities for all our children.

Chris Lawrence (Rev.)
Foundation Governor

Admissions Panel Chair
Religious Education Lead



I have been an ordained clergyman for ten years with a previous career as a research engineer within the Ministry of Defence.

As Vicar of St Thomas à Becket Church, Framfield and Blackboys CE Schools naturally fall within my parish remit to provide assemblies and services that are Christian based and in keeping with the ethos of both schools.

Apart from the usual church duties I see my role as helping the children, parents and staff to take a wider view of life and how the spiritual side helps us to make greater sense of the world we live in and how we address real life issues.

From a personal point of view I see my calling unfolding mainly in the area of relationships. I came to faith eighteen years ago from a largely unchurched background and as such can empathise with the ups and downs of life. I am always happy to provide pastoral support and a confidential listening ear to individuals or families, particularly when life is challenging or complicated.

Contact can be made directly or via the church website:
www.framfieldchurch.org.uk Focus for Religious Instruction.

Gillian Clark
Foundation Governor

Ethos , RE, and SIAMS Working Party
Co-Chair
Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing
Lead



I have lived in the village of Blackboys for the past 11 years and feel very much part of the community here.

I have 3 grown up children who are all now married and 3 gorgeous grandchildren for which I feel truly blessed.

Sadly my husband died unexpectedly in 2017 but I was provided with so much support and love from the people of New Life Church, Blackboys that I felt carried through that traumatic time.

As a committed Christian I am now on the Leadership team of that Church and consider my role as a Foundation Governor serving on the Ethos committee extremely important. I now lead the "Open the Book" team that acts out Bible Story Assemblies to Blackboys School once a fortnight. This has proved to be a great success with the children and staff alike.

I am also the lead Governor for the Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing of our pupils and staff across the Federation. This role I take very seriously, especially during the current climate of Mental Health Awareness and the pressures life puts on us all.

I feel very privileged to be a governor to both excellent schools and hope that I can bring my life's experiences and expertise for the benefit of the children, staff and parents

Graham Sullivan
Headteacher at Blackboys

Designated Safeguarding Lead
Health & Safety Co-ordinator



I am proud to be Headteacher of Blackboys School, beginning the role from September 2018.

I was educated at Hampton School in Middlesex, before spending 4 happy years earning a BA Primary Education with History (QTS) at King Alfred's College, Winchester (now the University of Winchester).

Following 3 formative years teaching Year 6 at Ticehurst Primary School, I began teaching at Blackboys in 2001, moving from Class teacher, to Key Stage Coordinator, to Deputy Headteacher, to Head of School before realising my ambition to become Headteacher.

The school has seen many exciting changes over this period and I continue to work hard in preparing the pupils to "Be the best they can be".

Katharine Rabson Stark
Authority Governor

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
Lead
Literacy Lead
Equality Lead



I am proud to have been Chair of the Governing Body of the St Thomas à Becket Federation since its inception in 2015 and prior to that I was Chair and parent Governor at Framfield School. I am a National Lead of Governance (NLG) tasked to help other schools in East Sussex and am a Future Chairs Mentor. I am passionate about primary education and in ensuring that every person: child, teacher, support staff member or parent can access the best it can offer. My background is in strategic development, partnership brokering and innovation within the Higher Education Sector. I worked at King's College London for 18 years during which time I led on the restructure of the medical schools, the establishment of a Student Entrepreneurship Institute and the renovation of the East Wing of Somerset House. My experience, particularly in establishing partnerships and representing the views of all parties through consultation does, I hope, benefit the St Thomas à Becket Federation. I am a Mum of three children, one is at Uckfield College and the other two are within Key Stage Two at Framfield. Recently I ceased full time work and have returned to education myself, studying at West Dean College on a undergraduate diploma in Arts and Contemporary Crafts.

Katherine Hall
Foundation Governor

Vice Chair Finance Committee
Information Governance (GDPR) Lead



I am currently a full-time mum to Edwin (8) and Gregory (4) who both attend Framfield school.

I moved to Uckfield in 2007 with my now husband having grown up in West Sussex attending both a C of E primary school and secondary school.

I started worshipping at Framfield church thanks to its welcoming community.

I studied Environmental Geochemistry at Reading University and then started work for a design consultancy based in Lewes in 2002.

I furthered my education by undertaking a Masters in Soil Mechanics and Environmental Geotechnics at Imperial College London, part time, whilst working.

I progressed through the company to become a senior Geotechnical Engineer working on many large and small highways infrastructure projects considering foundation design.

I left the company in 2018 to be a full-time mum after 13.5 years of service.

Now both children are at school I am looking forward to supporting the schools and the rolls they play in the community.

Lisa Pestell
Headteacher at Framfield

Designated Safeguarding Lead



I was appointed as the Headteacher of Framfield CE Primary School in September 2018.

Since graduating from Roehampton University, educating children has been my vocation.

I have worked as a teacher and a leader in schools of varying size and locations including London, Bexhill and Hastings and across all key stages. I see every child as unique and special and I feel privileged to have shared in the learning journeys of so many children.

Our school is at the heart of the village, there is strong sense of community and Framfield has a reputation for being an inclusive school with pupil's well-being at its core.

My vision is that we offer a rich and exciting curriculum that excites every child, that we inspire pupils to achieve and be 'The Best That They Can Be' in everything they do and that we constantly engage in dialogue about learning with our pupils.

Our staff are a strong team of fiercely committed people and together we will move the school forward from strength to strength.

In my free time, I enjoy nothing better than being out walking along the seafront with my husband, two grown-up children and my three dogs.

Richard Arthur
Parent Governor

Curriculum Working Party Chair
Humanities Lead
Science Lead
Subject Leadership Lead



I am a full time secondary school teacher, father of three and husband of Janet. We have lived in Framfield since Jan 2012 and my youngest Sophie started in Peacock's this September (2019).

I am originally from Rochdale in Lancashire and studied Geography at Oxford. I have lived in Sussex since 1997 and have worked as a teacher at Beacon Academy in Crowborough since then.

My two teenage children attend Beacon. I have been involved with Framfield community from before 2012, helping at the horticultural show and writing quizzes for fund raising events with Terry Everitt.

I am minibus and 1st Aid trained as part of my job running Geography fieldtrips.

Russell Boorman
Staff Governor



I have been working at Blackboys school since 2014 after beginning my teaching career in Brede, near Rye, working in Key Stage 2 and as Maths subject leader across the Federation.

I studied **History and German at the University of Leeds**, spending a year working at a school in the Monchengladbach area, which led me to pursuing a teaching career.

I then spent a summer at the **University of Portsmouth in order to revise my French speaking skills**, before I completed my **PGCE in 7-14 Education** with a specialism in **Modern Foreign Languages at Canterbury Christchurch University** in 2010.

Having also spent time in my youth as a member of various sporting teams and musical groups, I try to ensure that all subjects are given their chance in school, giving children the chance to experience many different and exciting opportunities.

Originally from Bexhill-on-Sea, I live in Uckfield with my wife and two daughters.

I take an active role in the PTA football club at Blackboys, and try to get back over to Germany whenever I can.

Samantha Butler
Foundation Governor

Health and Safety Lead
Premises (Maintenance) Lead



I grew up in East Sussex and attended a local primary school and then St. Leonards Mayfield.

I studied English Literature at Durham University then after a CPE conversion course at the College of Law, Guildford and Legal Practice Course at the College of Law, London, qualified as a lawyer.

I have worked at law firms in London, Norfolk and Kent but most recently in the City where I practised in the area of Commercial Litigation specialising in Construction industry disputes.

Currently I look after my three small children, the eldest of whom is in year 1 at Blackboys CEP, and manage a number of properties which we rent to tenants in London.

I am on the PCC in Buxted but we will shortly be moving to Framfield where I am looking forward to being a part of our new parish.

Sarah Cottingham
Foundation Governor

Ethos , RE, and SIAMS Working Party
Co-Chair
Safeguarding Lead (Blackboys)



I am a full time Mum of 7 children whose ages range from 4 to 19 years.

I have links with Blackboys School dating back to 1980, as my husband and all his siblings attended the school.

I grew up in Wiltshire and moved to Sussex in 1994 to work in a residential care home for the elderly. I then moved on to Brighton University to train as a Staff Nurse. After I graduated I worked at EDGH on the ophthalmic surgical ward until our eldest children (twins) were born, when I gave up nursing to become a full time mum. At present I also help my husband, working in the Family Business at Halland.

Five of our children have now passed through Blackboys CEP School (receiving an excellent education on the way!) and on to Secondary School, College and beyond. I still have children attending Blackboys School and therefore have a keen interest in the continual progress and development of both schools within the Federation.

I have a wealth of experience from my nursing background which has proved very useful in many different situations over the past 20 years. 15 years ago I was treasurer to the Blackboys Pre School for a time. I have current experience of a large variety of issues associated with children passing through primary and secondary education, and have been a witness to the changes and developments at Blackboys school during the time of the three previous Headteachers/Executive Headteacher.

I hope that this experience will stand me in good stead for the challenges of being a Foundation Governor.

Tim Murray
Foundation Governor

Chair of Governors
Forward Planning Working Party Chair



I first became a governor in 1995 in South London for a small school with a high refugee intake and over 21 different first languages spoken by the children.

We moved to East Sussex over 20 years ago with our children (now young adults), and I became a school governor for a large primary school in Uckfield serving for 12 years.

During this time, I also represented local primary school governing bodies through the East Sussex County Forum and Schools forum.

After a ten year gap I have returned to being a school governor and I am very pleased to have the opportunity to work with Framfield and Blackboys schools.

I took a career break in 2019 after working for eleven years for a London based management consultancy advising and supporting business in the UK, Europe and USA.

In June 2020 I returned to work now as an independent management consultant with a lot less travel. I often credit my experience as a school governor with developing the skill to make the change from being a senior manager in a large organisation to the world of consultancy.

Tjadine Ullmann-Carp
Foundation Governor

Vice Chair of Governors
Data and Performance Working Party Chair
Safeguarding Lead (Framfield)
Maths and Problem Solving Lead



Since 2011 I have been living in East-Sussex. We moved from Holland, where I was born, raised and had a full on career as partner of a consultancy firm, to follow my husband's job and choose this area to live because of Blackboys School.

I love to be as involved as you can in the school and social life of my children. As such I have sat on the Committee of the preschool, started after school hockey club, one of my own passions, and for the last 3 years was co-chair of the PTA. I strongly believe a community has the responsibility to help a child find its place in society as well as it possibly can, socially, educationally and happily.

I feel very honoured to have been asked to become a foundation Governor, to assist the federation to keep its high standards when the world around us brings so many challenges.

Professionally I believe I can bring some helpful experience. I have been involved in the management of a large primary school federation (9 schools) in Amsterdam, worked for the largest commercial real estate company in the world, was chair of the Preschool Committee in Rotterdam and advised several companies and governmental departments on how to reduce costs and find ways to improve their financial outlook.

Currently, I work for Wizenoze, a Tech Company that makes the Internet a better place for children, which will launch its products in the UK this year. Personally I hope to be able to act as a helpful and active soundboard to the Staff, Management and parents. I hope to bring a bit of matter of fact Dutchness, obviously with the appropriate English touch and based on Christian values.

Zoe Holland
Parent Governor

SEND and Vulnerable Children Working Party Chair
Equality & Diversity Lead
Pupil Premium Lead
SEND Lead



I am a parent to Daisy in Year 4 at Framfield (as well as Logan who will start school next year). I have also supported my 2 step-sons through their Primary schooling also at Framfield. The boys came to live with us full time 5 years ago and we found Framfield incredibly supportive throughout this process.

I gained a PGCE in 7-14 Geography 13 years ago at Canterbury Christ Church University. I taught in both Primary and Secondary schools in my placements. During my secondary placement I had the opportunity to teach a group of SEN students which has led me to a career in teaching young people with a range of barriers to learning.

I currently teach Primary and Post 16 students at "Step by Step School" for children with autism in Sharpthorne near East Grinstead. In 2014 I completed my National Professional Qualification in Middle Leadership (NPQML) which has allowed me to develop knowledge, skills, and confidence in leading teams within education.

Additional knowledge and skills I have gained include Lead Coordinator for ASDAN (award organisation regulated by Ofqual), Team Teach handling techniques, First Aid in an educational setting, up to date on current Child Protection/Safeguarding/On Line Safety training, and trained in teaching children with autism supported by Applied Behaviour Therapy.

Phil Wilmowski TD
Clerk to the Governors



The Clerk holds an historic appointment going back to the Education Act of 1870.

I work closely with the Chair of Governors, the Headteachers, all the other Governors (and School Office Staff) to support the Governing Body.

I advise the Governing Body on constitutional and procedural matters, duties, and powers. I am accountable to the Governing Body, maintain its Information Management System, prepare Agendas, record Minutes of meetings, assist in arranging Training, and undertake the role of Historian.

I have been a Clerk to the Governors in East Sussex since 2005, and obtained a nationally recognised accreditation (for Clerks to Governors) in September 2008. I currently provide Clerking services to St Thomas a Becket Church of England Federation (Blackboys CEP School and Framfield CEP School).

Before taking early retirement, I worked as a BT Manager (planning, customer service, staff management, and Project Management) for 36 years, and spent 42 years in the Territorial Army rising in rank from Private in the Queens Regiment, which became part of the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment (PWRR,) to Major in the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC).

In addition to Clerking the St Thomas a Becket Church of England Federation's Governing Body, I work for Morrisons Pharmacy (Crowborough) delivering medication to people who are housebound or isolating during the Covid19 pandemic.